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PROGRESS REPORT

from

June 1, 1973 to June 30, 1973

Contract NAS 9-13274

(E73-10884) [FIELD COLLECTION OF
SPECTRAL AND GROUND TRUTH DATA FOR RB-57
AND SKYLAB OVERFLIGHTS] Progress Report,
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by

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Prepared for the

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Field Work: Fourteen days were spent in the field collecting spectral data and providing groundtruth support for the RB-57 and Skylab overflights.

On June 2nd, field crews were dispatched to support a proposed overflight of Skylab along groundtrack #6 on June 3rd. The groundtrack passed over south Lake Tahoe and southeast over Mono Lake. The local weather forecast was for cloud build up with a possibility of thunder showers by late afternoon. Two groups of people were sent to Lake Tahoe, one to Washoe Lake, one to Garfield Flats, while the remainder went to Mono Lake and worked together with a Stanford University field crew. Groundbased measurements included: lake and ground temperatures, soil moistures, lithologic and incoming spectral data, and meteorological observations. At the time of the overflight a cloud deck covered the northwestern portion of the flightline including Tahoe and Washoe Lakes, while the cover thinned to the east and south all stations north of Mono Lake reported 50% or more cloud cover.

On June 6th, three teams collected groundbased measurements in support of six two hundred mile flightlines which extended approximately NE-SW across the Great Basin. Weather again compromised the data. The B-57 pilot reported that he thought he had achieved 75% of the mission objectives. At this writing I have not yet seen the data but would be happily surprised if 75% of the objectives were accomplished.

On June 13th, field crews were dispersed to support the June 14th, overflight of Skylab along track #20. The weather forecast for the Great Basin was for the passage of a storm front at the time of the overflight, which turned out to be exactly correct. One of the field parties spent the time of the overflight driving through a snow storm on Austin Summit east of Austin, Nevada. All stations along the flight tract within the state reported heavy overcast.